

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MARTIN 00221 020204Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 INT-05 COME-00 DLOS-09

L-03 CG-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 AGRE-00 /054 W

-----034199 020216Z /65

R 011330Z JUL 77

FM AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2624

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, EEC, FG

SUBJECT: U. S. FISHERY OFF FRENCH GUIANA

1. WHILE THE MATTER OF U.S. FISHERY OFF FRENCH GUIANA SEEMS TO BE ON THE WAY TO BEING RESOLVED, THE FOLLOWING INFO, OBTAINED LAST WEEK DURING ONE OF OUR PERIODIC CONSULAR VISITS TO CAYENNE, MAY BE OF INTEREST TO THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER ADDRESSEES. INFO WAS OBTAINED FROM FRENCH OFFICIALS AND LOCAL U.S. SHRIMP BOAT OPERATORS.

2. THERE ARE FORTY-ONE U.S. OWNED SHRIMP BOATS OPERATING OUT OF CAYENNE, ALL ENGAGED TO OPERATE FOR THE FORMER U.S. (BORDEN) OWNED PIDEG (PECHERIES INTERNATIONALES DE LA GUYANE) FIRM WHICH IS NOW WHOLLY FRENCH OWNED. OPERATORS CLAIM THAT THERE IS AT PRESENT NO SHRIMP SURPLUS OFF FRENCH GUIANA'S SHORES AND TO OPERATE PROFITABLY, THEY MUST SPEND ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THEIR TIME FISHING OFF THE BRAZILIAN COAST. THE YEARLY ANNUAL CATCH PER BOAT RUNS ABOUT 30 TO 32 TONS AND RARELY EXCEEDS THAT LEVEL. THE TOTAL ANNUAL CATCH BY U.S. OWNED SHIPS AMOUNTS TO ABOUT 1300 TONS.

3. THERE ARE NO IMPORTANT PLANS TO EXPAND THE SHRIMP FISHING

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PAGE 02 MARTIN 00221 020204Z

INDUSTRY IN FRENCH GUIANA, ALTHOUGH PIDEG INTENDS TO EXPAND ITS FACILITIES A LITTLE DURING THE NEXT YEAR. NO U.S. OPERATOR PLANS TO ADD TO HIS VESSELS BECAUSE, FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, OPERATORS CONSIDER THE ATLANTIC GROUNDS OFF FRENCH GUIANA PROBABLY CANNOT YIELD MUCH MORE SHRIMP. WE GAINED THE STRONG IMPRESSION ON THIS VISIT AS WELL AS ON OTHERS THAT FRENCH OFFICIALS WOULD STRONGLY SUPPORT BOTH AN EXPANSION OF THE PIDEG FACILITIES

AND THE NUMBER OF SHRIMP CATCHERS IF THERE WAS ANY HOPE OF
DOING SO PROFITABLY. PIDEG'S PROCESSING INDUSTRY IS PERHAPS THE
ONLY ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN FRENCH GUIANA WHICH AT PRESENT PRODUCES
A SALEABLE COMMODITY ABROAD AND THE GOF ATTACHES MUCH IMPORTANCE
TO ITS CONTINUANCE. BUT AT PRESENT THERE ARE NO PLANS TO EXPAND
IT IN AN IMPORTANT WAY.
SHACKLETON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHERIES, SHELLFISH, FISHING BOATS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MARTIN00221
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770236-0547
Format: TEL
From: MARTINIQUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770798/aaaadhlu.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4fe47f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1985396
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U. S. FISHERY OFF FRENCH GUIANA
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, FG, US, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4fe47f72-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009